



Department of Health

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

HOWARD A. ZUCKER, M.D., J.D.
Commissioner

SALLY DRESLIN, M.S., R.N.
Executive Deputy Commissioner

April 11, 2019

CERTIFIED MAIL-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Kevin Joseph Pauza, M.D.
Texas Spine and Joint Hospital
1814 Roseland Blvd., Suite 250
Tyler, Texas 75701

RE: License No. 266712

Dear Dr. Pauza:

Enclosed is a copy of the New York State Board for Professional Medical Conduct (BPMC) Order No. 19-083. This Order and any penalty provided therein goes into effect April 18, 2019.

If the penalty imposed by the Order is a fine, please write the check payable to the New York State Department of Health. Noting the BPMC Order number on your remittance will assist in proper crediting. Payments should be directed to the following address:

Bureau of Accounts Management
New York State Department of Health
Corning Tower, Room 2784
Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York 12237

Please direct any questions to: Board for Professional Medical Conduct, Riverview Center, 150 Broadway, Suite 355, Albany, New York, 12204, telephone # 518-402-0846.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Catalano, M.D.
Executive Secretary
Board for Professional Medical Conduct

Enclosure

cc: Michael Elliott, Esq.
Elliott Sauter
7557 Rambler Rd., Suite 970
Dallas, Texas 75231

IN THE MATTER
OF
KEVIN JOSEPH PAUZA, M.D.

CONSENT
ORDER

Upon the application of KEVIN JOSEPH PAUZA, M.D. in the attached Consent Agreement and Order, which is made a part of this Consent Order, it is

ORDERED, that the Consent Agreement, and its terms, are adopted and

it is further

ORDERED, that this Consent Order shall be effective upon issuance by the Board,
either

by mailing of a copy of this Consent Order, either by first class mail to Respondent at
the address in the attached Consent Agreement or by certified mail to Respondent's
attorney, OR

upon facsimile transmission to Respondent or Respondent's attorney,
whichever is first.

SO ORDERED.

DATE: 04/10/2019


ARTHUR S. HENGERER, M.D.
Chair
State Board for Professional Medical Conduct

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
STATE BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL CONDUCT

IN THE MATTER
OF
KEVIN JOSEPH PAUZA, M.D.

CONSENT
AGREEMENT

KEVIN JOSEPH PAUZA, M.D., represents that all of the following statements are true:

That on or about September 17, 2012, I was licensed to practice as a physician in the State of New York, and issued License No. 266712 by the New York State Education Department.

My current address is TSJH, 1614 Roseland Boulevard, Suite 250, Tyler, Texas, 75701, and I will advise the Director of the Office of Professional Medical Conduct of any change of address.

I understand that the New York State Board for Professional Medical Conduct (Board) has charged me with one or more specifications of professional misconduct, as set forth in a Statement of Charges, marked as Exhibit "A", attached to and part of this Consent Agreement.

I agree not to contest the allegations, in full satisfaction of the charges against me, and agree to the following penalty:

Pursuant to N.Y. Pub. Health Law § 230-a(1), I shall be subject to a Censure and Reprimand.

Pursuant to N.Y. Pub. Health Law § 230-a(9), I shall be placed on probation for a period of thirty six (36) months, subject to the terms set forth in attached Exhibit "B."

I will comply with and successfully complete, to the satisfaction of the Director of OPMC, the terms/or conditions of the Agreed Order of the Texas Medical Board, dated on or about August 24, 2018, and any extensions or modifications to such Orders.

Pursuant to N.Y. Pub. Health Law §§ 230-a(7) and (9), I shall be subject to a fine in the amount of three thousand dollars (\$3,000), to be paid in full within 30 days of the effective date of this Order. Payments must be submitted to:

Bureau of Accounts Management
New York State Department of Health
Coming Tower, Room 2784
Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York 12237

In making such payment, Respondent shall indicate the order number of this Order both on the payment check submitted and on the cover letter accompanying payment.

Additionally, Respondent shall simultaneously mail a photocopy of the check and cover letter to:

Physician Monitoring Program

Office of Professional Medical Conduct
Riverview Center
150 Broadway, Suite 355
Albany, New York 12204-2719.

I further agree that the Consent Order shall impose the following conditions:

That Respondent shall comply with each and every penalty imposed by this Order pursuant to N.Y. Pub. Health Law § 230-a.

That Respondent shall remain in continuous compliance with all requirements of N.Y. Educ Law § 6502 including, but not limited to, the requirements that a licensee shall register and continue to be registered with the New York State Education Department (except during periods of actual suspension) and that a licensee shall pay all registration fees. Respondent shall not exercise the option provided in N.Y. Educ. Law § 6502(4) to avoid registration and payment of fees. This condition shall take effect 120 days after the Consent Order's effective date and will continue so long as

Respondent remains a licensee in New York State; and

That Respondent shall remain in continuous compliance with all requirements of N.Y. Pub. Health Law § 2995-a(4) and 10 NYCRR 1000.5, including, but not limited to, the requirements that a licensee shall report to the Department all information required by the Department to develop a

public physician profile for the licensee; continue to notify the Department of any change in profile information within 30 days of any change (or in the case of optional information, within 365 days of such change); and, in addition to such periodic reports and notification of any changes, update his or her profile information within six months prior to the expiration date of the licensee's registration period. Licensee shall submit changes to his or her physician profile information either electronically using the Department's secure web site or on forms prescribed by the Department, and licensee shall attest to the truthfulness, completeness and correctness of any changes licensee submits to the Department. This condition shall take effect 30 days after the Order's effective date and shall continue so long as Respondent remains a licensee in New York State. Respondent's failure to comply with this condition, if proven and found at a hearing pursuant to N.Y. Pub. Health Law § 230, shall constitute professional misconduct as defined in N.Y. Educ. Law § 6530(21) and N.Y. Educ. Law § 6530(29). Potential penalties for failure to comply with this condition may include all penalties for professional misconduct set forth in N.Y. Pub. Health Law § 230-a, including but not

limited to: revocation or suspension of license, Censure and Reprimand, probation, public service and/or fines of up to \$10,000 per specification of misconduct found; and

That Respondent shall provide the Director, Office of Professional Medical Conduct (OPMC), Riverview Center, 150 Brodwey, Suite 365, Albany, New York 12204-2719, with the following information, in writing, and ensure that this information is kept current; a full description of Respondent's employment and practice; all professional and residential addresses and telephone numbers within and outside New York State; and all investigations, arrests, charges, convictions or disciplinary actions by any local, state or federal agency, institution or facility.

Respondent shall notify OPMC, in writing, within 30 days of any additions to or changes in the required information. This condition shall take effect 30 days after the Order's effective date and shall continue at all times until Respondent receives written notification from the Office of Professional Medical Conduct, Physician Monitoring Program, that OPMC has determined that Respondent has fully complied with and satisfied the requirements of the Order; and

That Respondent shall cooperate fully with the Office of Professional Medical Conduct (OPMC) in its administration and enforcement of this Consent Order and in its investigations of matters concerning Respondent. Respondent shall respond in a timely manner to all OPMC requests for written periodic verification of Respondent's compliance with this Consent Order.
Respondent shall meet with a person designated by the Director of OPMC,

as directed. Respondent shall respond promptly and provide all documents and information within Respondent's control, as directed. This condition shall take effect upon the Board's issuance of the Consent Order and will continue so long as Respondent remains licensed in New York State.

I stipulate that my failure to comply with any conditions of this Consent Order shall constitute misconduct as defined by N.Y. Educ. Law § 6530(29).

I agree that, if I am charged with professional misconduct in future, this Consent Agreement and Order shall be admitted into evidence in that proceeding.

I ask the Board to adopt this Consent Agreement.

I understand that if the Board does not adopt this Consent Agreement, none of its terms shall bind me or constitute an admission of any of the acts of alleged misconduct; this Consent Agreement shall not be used against me in any way and shall be kept in strict confidence; and the Board's denial shall be without prejudice to the pending disciplinary proceeding and the Board's final determination pursuant to the N.Y. Pub. Health Law.

I agree that, if the Board adopts this Consent Agreement, the Chair of the Board shall issue a Consent Order in accordance with its terms. I agree that this Consent Order shall take effect upon its issuance by the Board, either by mailing of a copy of the Consent Order by first class mail to me at the address in this Consent Agreement, or to my attorney by certified mail, OR upon facsimile transmission to me or my attorney, whichever is first.

The Consent Order, this agreement, and all attached Exhibits shall be public documents, with only patient identities or other confidential information, if any, redacted. As public documents, they may be posted on the Department's website. OPMC shall report this action to the National Practitioner Data Bank and the Federation of State Medical Boards, and any other entities that the Director of OPMC shall deem appropriate.

I stipulate that the proposed sanction and Consent Order are authorized by N.Y. Pub. Health Law §§ 230 and 230-a, and that the Board and OPMC have the requisite powers to carry out all included terms. I ask the Board to adopt this Consent Agreement of my own free will and not under duress, compulsion or restraint. In consideration of the value to me of the Board's adoption of this Consent Agreement, allowing me to resolve this matter without the various risks and burdens of a hearing on the merits, I knowingly waive my right to contest the Consent Order for which I apply, whether administratively or judicially. I agree to be bound by the Consent Order, and I ask that the Board adopt this Consent Agreement.

I understand and agree that the attorney for the Department, the Director of OPMC and the Chair of the Board each retain complete discretion either to enter into the proposed agreement and Consent Order, based upon my application, or to decline to do so. I further understand and agree that no prior or separate written or oral communication can limit that discretion.

DATE

4/8/2019

B

Kevin Joseph Payza, M.D.
RESPONDENT

The undersigned agree to Respondent's attached Consent Agreement and to its proposed penalty, terms and conditions.

DATE: 4/8/19

[REDACTED]
Mr. Michael Elliott, ESQ.
Attorney for Respondent

DATE: 4/9/19

[REDACTED]
Deborah Beth Medows
Senior Attorney
Bureau of Professional Medical Conduct

DATE: 4/10/19

[REDACTED]
REITH W. SERVIS
Director
Office of Professional Medical Conduct

EXHIBIT "A"

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
STATE BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL CONDUCT

<p>IN THE MATTER OF KEVIN JOSEPH PAUZA, M.D.</p>	<p>STATEMENT OF CHARGES</p>
--	-------------------------------------

Kevin Joseph Pauza, M.D., the Respondent, was licensed to practice medicine in New York State on or about September 17, 2012, by the issuance of license number 266712 by the New York State Education Department.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

A. On or about August 24, 2018, the Respondent voluntarily entered into an Agreed Order with the Texas Medical Board that stated that he failed to maintain an adequate medical record for one patient that was complete, contemporaneous, and legible, along with failing to practice medicine in an acceptable professional manner consistent with public health and welfare.

1. In the 2018 disciplinary Agreed Order, the Respondent neither admitted nor denied the allegations. The Texas Medical Board alleged in this Order that the Respondent diagnosed the patient whose condition precipitated this Order with lumbar disc pain and lumbar radiculopathy without specifically and clearly documenting in a complete, contemporaneous, and legible record the

rationale behind the diagnosis. The Order further alleged that the Respondent failed to document that he considered simpler and less invasive treatment options prior to performing the procedure or that the patient chose to forego conventional treatment.

2. In the 2018 Agreed Order, the Texas Medical Board ordered the Respondent to: have a practice monitor for 12 consecutive monitoring cycles who shall be either an orthopedic surgeon or neurosurgeon who specializes in spinal procedures; take and pass the Medical Jurisprudence Examination with a score of 75 or above within three attempts within one year following the date of the entry of the Order; and to pay a three thousand dollar (\$3,000) administrative penalty. The Respondent was also required to enroll in, within one year from the date of the Texas Board Order, and successfully complete, at least twenty (20) hours of continuing medical education (CME). He was required to complete four hours of CMEs in each of the following topics: complementary and/or alternative medicine, informed consent, ethics, patient communication, and risk management.

B. The conduct resulting in the Agreed Order would constitute misconduct under the laws of New York State, pursuant to the following section of New York State Law:

1. N.Y. Educ. Law § 6530(32) (Failing to Maintain an Adequate Medical Record.)

SPECIFICATION OF CHARGE

HAVING A DISCIPLINARY ACTION TAKEN

Respondent is charged with committing professional misconduct as defined in N.Y. Educ. Law § 6530(9)(d) by having his or her license to practice medicine revoked, suspended or having other disciplinary action taken, or having his or her application for a license refused, revoked or suspended or having voluntarily or otherwise surrendered his or her license after a disciplinary action was instituted by a duly authorized professional disciplinary agency of another state, where the conduct resulting in the revocation, suspension or other disciplinary action involving the license or refusal, revocation or suspension of an application for a license or the surrender of the license would, if committed in New York state, constitute professional misconduct under the laws of New York state, namely N.Y. Educ. Law § 6530 (32), as alleged in the facts of the following:

1. The facts in Paragraph A and its subparagraphs.

DATE: March 11 , 2019
New York, New York



Henry L. Weintraub
Chief Counsel
Bureau of Professional Medical Conduct

EXHIBIT "B"

Terms of Probation

- 1) Respondent's conduct shall conform to moral and professional standards of conduct and governing law. Any act of professional misconduct by Respondent as defined by N.Y. Educ. Law §§ 6530 or 6531 shall constitute a violation of probation and may subject Respondent to an action pursuant to N.Y. Pub. Health Law § 230(19).
- 2) Respondent shall cooperate fully with, and respond in a timely manner to, OPMC requests to provide written periodic verification of Respondent's compliance with the terms of this Consent Order. Upon the Director of OPMC's request, Respondent shall meet in person with the Director's designee.
- 3) Respondent's failure to pay any monetary penalty by the prescribed date shall subject Respondent to all provisions of law relating to debt collection by New York State, including but not limited to: the imposition of interest, late payment charges and collection fees; referral to the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance for collection; and non-renewal of permits or licenses [Tex Law § 171(27); State Finance Law § 18; CPLR § 5001; Executive Law § 32].
- 4) The Director of OPMC may review Respondent's professional performance. This review may include but shall not be limited to: a review of office records, patient records, hospital charts, and/or electronic records; and interviews with or periodic visits with Respondent and staff at practice locations or OPMC offices.
- 5) Respondent shall adhere to federal and state guidelines and professional standards of care with respect to infection control practices. Respondent shall ensure education, training and oversight of all office personnel involved in medical care, with respect to these practices.
- 6) Respondent shall maintain complete and legible medical records that accurately reflect the evaluation and treatment of patients and contain all information required by State rules and regulations concerning controlled substances.
- 7) Respondent shall enroll in and successfully complete a continuing education program as directed by the Office of Professional Medical Conduct. This continuing education program is subject to the Director of OPMC's prior written approval. This program shall be successfully completed within the first 90 days of the probation period unless Respondent obtains, in writing, the Director's prior authorization to exceed that 90-day period. The Director, for good cause shown by Respondent

prior to the expiration of such 90-day period, shall have full discretion to deny or grant such extension.

8) Within thirty days of the Consent Order's effective date, Respondent shall practice medicine only when monitored by a licensed physician, board certified in an appropriate specialty, ("practice monitor") proposed by Respondent and subject to the written approval of the Director of OPMC. Any medical practice in violation of this term shall constitute the unauthorized practice of medicine.

- a) Respondent shall make available to the monitor any and all records or access to the practice requested by the monitor, including on-site observation. The practice monitor shall visit Respondent's medical practice at each and every location, on a random unannounced basis at least monthly and shall examine a selection (no fewer than 20) of records maintained by Respondent, including patient records, prescribing information and office records. If the Respondent shall have fewer than 20 records, then all the records will be examined. The review will determine whether the Respondent's medical practice is conducted in accordance with the generally accepted standards of professional medical care. Any perceived deviation of accepted standards of medical care or refusal to cooperate with the monitor shall be reported within 24 hours to OPMC.
- b) Respondent shall be solely responsible for all expenses associated with monitoring, including fees, if any, to the monitoring physician.
- c) Respondent shall cause the practice monitor to report quarterly, in writing, to the Director of OPMC.
- d) Respondent shall maintain medical malpractice insurance coverage with limits no less than \$2 million per occurrence and \$6 million per policy year, in accordance with Section 230(18)(b) of the Public Health Law. Proof of coverage shall be submitted to the Director of OPMC prior to Respondent's practice after the effective date of this Order.

9) Respondent shall comply with this Consent Order and all its terms, and shall bear all associated compliance costs. Upon receiving evidence of noncompliance with, or a violation of, these terms, the Director of OPMC and/or the Board may initiate a violation of probation proceeding, and/or any other such proceeding authorized by law, against Respondent.